1986. Generally, the President and Members of the District Fora are entitled for such travelling allowance and daily allowances on official tour as are admissible to Group A officers of the State Government.

(c) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Rules, 1987, the District Forum shall have power to require any person to produce before, and allow to be examined or kept by an officer of the District Forum, such books, accounts documents etc. in his custody, if examination of such books, accounts, documents are required for the purposes of the Act.

(d) and (e) Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the District Forum consists of three members including the President and its decisions are decisions of the majority. As such, the question of exercising all the functions and powers solely by the President does not arise.

National Service Scheme for consumer movement

1230. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(i) whether Government are considering a proposal to induct National Service Scheme Coordinators from educational institutions to lead the consumer movement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Consumer movement is lagging behind due to lack of public participation ;

(c) whether there is a demand for Government funds to train people to participate effectively in the consumer movement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to make funds available to train people through the Bureau of Indian Standards, Department of Weights and Measures and various other institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The consumer movement is still in its infancy in the country. However, as a result of number of measures taken by the Government and a few consumer organisations, an alert consumer is emerging on the scene who is aware of his rights as a consumer.

(c) and (d) At present, Government is conducting training programmes for various sections of the society with the help of well known training institutions such as IIPA, New Delhi, NIRD, Hyderabad and State Level training institutions. For this purpose, funds are placed at their disposal. Such training programmes are being conducted for voluntary consumer organisations, state government officials and non-judicial members of the redressal agencies set up usder the Consumer Protections Act, 1986.

Acute shortage of essential commodities in Assam

1231. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of essential items in the State of Assam and the people are being harassed ;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has approached the Central Government for extra supply of essential items in the State ; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Rail link to North Eastern States had remained cut off due to floods for a few weeks during the monsoon season. This had caused some disruption in the movement of foodgrains and other essential commodities by rail to the region. However, there were no reports of acute shortage of any commodity in Assam during the past six months. Movement of foodgrains to the North East is being given high priority by the Ministry of Food and is being monitored on a regular basis. On the request of Government of Assam additional allocation of 10,000 tonnes of rice and 5,000 tonnes of wheat per month was given during September, 1993 to December, 1993. The normal monthly allocation of foodgrains to Assam is 38,400 tonnes of rice and 20,000 tonnes of wheat.

Availability of Palmolein through Super Bazar

1232. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Super Bazar has recently issued advertisements through newspapers of Delhi regarding availability of Palmolein in all the 163 branches of the Super Bazar in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for issuing such advertisements;

(c) whether it is a fact that the availability of Palmolein through branches of the Super Bazar has been made after a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether response of consumers to such availability is not encouraging due to long gap between last availability and present availability;

(f) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure availability of Palmolein in all branches of the Super Bazar throughout the year; and

(g) if so, the detais thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The advertisement appeared in the leading newspapers on 24th & 5th November, 1993 informing the consumers regarding its availability in the retail outlets of Super Bazar as well as its retail price.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The availability of indigenous Edible Oils was adequate and as there was no demand from the Union Territory of Delhi, allocation of Imported Edible Oil (Palmolein) was not made during the period from March, 93 to Sept. 93. In October, 93 when the stock of Palmolein was replenished through import, the National Capital Territory of Delhi was allocated 2000 MTs of Palmolein which was allotted by NCT of Delhi to five nominated agencies for sale through their outlets including Super Bazar.

(e) Yes, Sir. It is reported that the response of consumers towards purchase of Palmolein this time is slow.

(f) At present there is no such proposal.

(g) Question does not arise.

Uniformity in Distribution of ration to Public in the Country

1233. SHRI TINDIVAHAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI J. S. RAJU:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to fix uniform ration quota for the public in all States;